

Claims:

1. A method for patterning of three-dimensional surfaces, wherein a pattern (2) is first formed by printing a colouring agent on a printing medium, after which the pattern is transferred to the surface of an object (4) to be patterned, **characterized** in that the colouring agent forming the pattern is left unfixed in connection with forming the pattern, and the fixing is performed separately by means of an auxiliary agent applied onto the pattern (2) or by means of a layer placed on top of the same, after which the pattern (2) is transferred to the surface of the object (4) to be patterned.
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2. The method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that it comprises the following steps:
15 a) providing a printing medium (1),
 b) forming a pattern (2) onto the surface of the printing medium (1) by a printing method, in which a colouring agent is applied onto the surface of the printing medium at points determined by the desired pattern (2), without fixing,
20 c) fixing the colouring agent forming the pattern (2) by means of an auxiliary agent applied onto it,
 d) detaching a 2-dimensional film containing the fixed pattern (2) and the auxiliary agent, from the printing medium (1), and
25 e) placing the 2-dimensional film onto the 3-dimensional surface of the object (4).
3. The method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that it comprises the following steps:
30 a) providing a printing medium,
 b) forming a pattern onto the surface of the printing medium by a printing method, in which a colouring agent is applied onto the surface of the printing medium at points determined by the desired pattern, without fixing,
35 c) fixing the colouring agent forming the pattern by means of a 2-dimensional film formed on top of it,

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- d) detaching the 2-dimensional film with the fixed pattern from the printing medium, and
- e) placing the 2-dimensional film onto the 3-dimensional surface of an object.

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4. The method according to claim 1, 2 or 3, **characterized** in that the 2-dimensional film, with which the pattern (2) is transferred to the surface of the object (4), is stretchable.

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5. The method according to claim 4, **characterized** in that the pattern (2) is encapsulated between two stretchable films (3, 1c).

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6. The method according to claim 5, **characterized** in that one of the stretchable films is a film (1c) originating from the printing medium and the other is a film (3) formed by or containing the fixing auxiliary agent.

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7. The method according to claim 5, **characterized** in that the film (1c) originating from the printing medium is placed against the surface of the object (4) to be patterned and the film (3) formed by or containing the fixing auxiliary agent forms an outer protective film.

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8. The method according to claim 5, **characterized** in that the film formed by or containing the fixing auxiliary agent is placed against the surface of the object (4) to be patterned and the film originating from the printing medium forms an outer protective film.

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9. The method according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the surface of the object (4) to be patterned is curved in two sectional planes perpendicular to each other and the surface.

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10. The method according to claim 9, **characterized** in that the object (4) to be patterned is the cover of an electronic device, such as the cover of a mobile phone.

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11. The method according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the method also comprises the forming of an image file

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corresponding to the pattern by a data processing technique before the image is formed on the surface of the printing medium (1).